

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A machine-readable medium having stored thereon as a computer program for execution by a processor and a monitoring logic for automatic device plug-and-play without user intervention that is implemented as a state transition system comprising:

a first state in which a device driver is not installed and a plug-and-play identifier has been detected from a device connected to a port;

a second state in which the device driver is installed and the plug-and-play identifier has been detected from the device connected to the port;

a third state in which the device driver is not installed and the plug-and-play identifier has not been detected from the device connected to the port; and,

a fourth state in which the device driver is installed and the plug-and-play identifier has not been detected from the device connected to the port, wherein the states are transitioned among one another based on a set of transitions comprising:

a first state-to-second state transition based on a device driver installation event;

a first state-to-third state transition based on an event of no detection of the plug-and-play identifier;

a second state-to-first state transition based on a device driver uninstallation event;

a second state-to-second state transition based on an event of detection of a new plug-and-play identifier;

a second state-to-fourth state transition based on the event of no detection of the plug-and-play identifier;

a third state-to-second state transition based on an event of detection of the plug-and-play identifier;

a third state-to-fourth state transition based on the device driver installation event;

a fourth state-to-third state transition based on the device driver uninstallation event; and,

a fourth state-to-second state transition based on the event of detection of the plug-and-play identifier.

Claim 25 (New): The medium of claim 24, wherein the device is a printer, a scanner, a fax machine, a multi-function device (MFD), or a digital camera.

Claim 26 (New): The medium of claim 24, wherein the port is a parallel port or a serial port.

Claim 27 (New): The medium of claim 26, wherein the serial port has a Universal Serial Bus (USB) form factor or an IEEE1394 form factor.

Claim 28 (New): The medium of claim 24, wherein upon connection of the port device to the port, the device driver installation event retrieves a plug-and-play identifier from the device, and selects an appropriate device driver based on the plug-and-play identifier.

Claim 29 (New): The medium of claim 28, wherein the device driver installation event includes downloading the appropriate driver from the Internet.